

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for this amendment can be found on lines 13-19 on page 131 of Applicants' specification.

Based on the amendment to claim 1, the preamble of claims 2 to 17 and 19 have been amended to recite a "A negative-working planographic printing plate precursor."

Claims 18 and 20 have been canceled.

Claims 21-28 have been added. Support for claim 21 can be found, for example, at lines 2-8 on page 42 of Applicants' specification. Support for claim 22 can be found, for example, at line 15 on page 81 to line 6 on page 82 of Applicants' specification. Support for claim 23 can be found, for example, at lines 9-20 on page 123 of Applicants' specification. Support for claim 24 can be found, for example, at lines 14-19 on page 127 of Applicants' specification. Support for claim 25 can be found, for example, at lines 10-12 on page 128 of Applicants' specification. Support for claim 26 can be found, for example, at line 15 on page 81 to line 6 on page 82 and lines 9-20 on page 123 of Applicants' specification. Support for claims 27 and 28 can be found, for example, at line 15 on page 81 to line 6 on page 82, at lines 9-20 on page 123, and at lines 14-19 on page 127 of Applicants' specification.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-4, 12-17, 19 and 21-28 will be pending.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoi et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,824,948) in view of Fujimaki et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,916,595) and Aoshima et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,838,222).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, “A negative-working planographic printing plate precursor that can be recorded by a solid laser or a semiconductor laser capable of radiating actinic ray in an ultraviolet to infrared wavelength region of 300 nm to 1,200 nm, and comprises a support having a recording layer containing a polymerizable composition provided thereon, wherein the polymerizable composition comprises....”

Applicants submit that the disclosure of Aoai and the disclosure of Aoshima and Fujimaki cannot be combined because the references belong to different technical fields, i.e., the references are non-analogous art. Aoai teaches a resist composition for forming a semiconductor, while Aoshima and Fujimaki teach compositions for a planographic printing plate precursor. Additionally, the range of wavelengths for exposure used in Aoai and that of Fujimaki and Aoshima are completely different, and accordingly, the formulations of the respective photosensitive recording layers are also different. It is understood by those skilled in the art that a formulation of a photosensitive layer affects the achievements of printing durability and developability (staining resistance property of the non-image portion), both of which are necessary for a planographic printing plate. This same printing durability is not required for a resist composition. Since the teaching of Aoai is limited to the field of a resist composition for electron beam or X-rays and never refers to a probability of utilization of the polymer in planographic printing plates, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to apply the disclosure of Aoai to printing plates, such as those taught in Aoshima or Fujimaki. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the references with a reasonable expectation of success in achieving the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner has objected to claim 3 as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

Applicants submit that the base claim should not be rejected for the reasons set forth above, and thus this objection is overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the presently claimed invention would not be rendered obvious by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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